

REMARKS

Claims 1-86 are in the present Application. By this second Preliminary Amendment claims 33-34, 39-43, 45-53, 72, 74-77 and 80-84 have been amended to spell out all instances of the abbreviations "miRNA" and "miRNAs" to read as "microRNA" and "microRNAs," respectively, for the sake of clarity; claim 33 has been amended to be an independent claim by incorporating all the limitations of claim 1, and claims 1-32 have been canceled. No new matter is added by these amendments. Therefore, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 33-86 are now pending in the above-identified United States Patent Application. All claims are believed to be in condition for examination and allowance and an indication of such is earnestly solicited. If there are any issues that can be addressed by telephone with the Applicant's representative, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-2090.

Respectfully submitted,

SHELDON MAK ROSE & ANDERSON
A Professional Corporation

Date: March 27, 2009

By /David A. Farah/
David A. Farah, M.D.
Reg. No. 38,134

David A. Farah, M.D.
SHELDON MAK ROSE & ANDERSON PC
100 Corson Street, Third Floor
Pasadena, California 91103-3842
Tel.: (626) 796-4000
Fax: (626) 795-6321
E-mail: davidf@usip.com